





# Record of Alumni Awards

## Alumni of the Year

- 1964 B.O. Smith (Deceased)
- 1965 Lucille Wood-Decatur
- 1966 Henry D. Horton, Louisville
- 1967 Crowley Alford (Deceased)
- 1968 W.H. Johnson, Jr., Decatur
- 1969 Arthur Winstead (Deceased)
- 1970 Leon Sims (Deceased)
- 1971 Charles Carter, Jackson
- 1972 Dr. William L. Weems, Jackson
- 1973 Arno Vincent, Meridian
- 1974 Elizabeth K. Darby, Philadelphia
- 1975 W. C. Spence (Deceased)
- 1976 John Risher, Philadelphia
- 1977 Jessie M. Everett, Decatur
- 1978 Class of 1928, First Class
- 1979 Glenn D. Walker, Union
- 1980 Russell Walton (Deceased)
- 1981 Dwight Mulholland, Collinsville
- 1982 Denver Brackeen, Union
- 1983 Frank Hunter (Deceased)
- 1984 Herman Alford (Deceased)
- 1985 Carl B. Cooper (Deceased)
- Dr. Beverly Oliphant,  
Washington, D.C.
- 1986 Kenneth Madison, Philadelphia
- Dr. Pam Kirk, Louisville
- 1987 Dr. Brad Tucker, Decatur
- Dr. Addie R. Lee, Birmingham, AL
- 1988 Henry B. Hudspeth, Louisville
- Dr. Verbie Prevost, Hixson, TN
- 1989 Dr. Eddie M. Smith, Decatur
- Dr. Walterine Herrington Bell,  
Jackson
- 1990 Larry Hogue, Flowood
- Jo McMullan Taylor, Forest
- 1991 Dr. Clyde Muse, Raymond
- Lois Blount Cooper, Decatur
- 1992 Earl Marshall, Clinton
- June Bailey, Biloxi
- 1993 Melvin Tingle, Decatur
- Patsy Dunigan Clark, Louisville
- 1994 Paul V. Breazeale, Jackson
- Jane Todd Gurry, Raleigh, NC
- 1995 Dr. John Gipson, Newton
- Wanda Comans Sharp, Sebastopol
- 1996 Ray Britt, Walnut Grove
- Brenda Whatley Kirby, Forest
- 1997 Dick Livingston (Deceased)
- Carol Farish Vickers, Decatur
- 1998 T.H. (Tam) Etheridge, Jackson
- Nell Allen Rogers, Philadelphia
- 1999 Dr. Shelby L. Harris, Decatur
- Illene Richie Gordon, Union
- 2000 S. LeBrun Hutchison, Littleton, CO
- Jeanette Beevers Thrash, Decatur

## Athletic Hall of Fame

- 1985 Denver Brackeen, Union
- 1986 Lucille Wood, Decatur
- 1987 Billy Wayne Baucum (Deceased)
- 1988 Howard Jean Sessums (Deceased)
- 1989 Lamar Blount, Decatur
- Arno Vincent, Meridian
- Earl Marshall, Clinton
- 1990 Jeff Loper (Deceased)
- Richard Harris, Hickory
- Sherrell Ray Marshall, Jackson
- 1991 Larry Henderson, Daphne, AL
- Diana Lyons Jones, Bay Springs
- Wayne Tullios, Belle Glade, FL
- 1992 Evelyn Bender, Lawrence
- Joe Clark, Decatur
- Bert Thompson (Deceased)
- 1993 Esther Thomas Coleman, Louisville
- Barbara Jo Davidson Russell, Decatur
- Louis Watwood, Arlington, VA
- 1994 Charlene Bates Jones, Forest
- Charlie Hope, Sharpsburg, GA
- Malcolm "Puddin" Jones (Deceased)
- 1995 Clayton Blount, Decatur
- Nan Huston Keenan, Rose Hill
- James T. "Jim" Wood, Louisville
- 1996 M.E. "Boe" Davis, Cary, NC
- John W. Golden, Stone Mountain, GA
- Julie Latham, Morton
- Malcolm Phillips, Newton
- 1997 Tommye Williamson Alfonso  
(Deceased)
- Lester Baucum, Wiggins
- James L. "Creeper" Nelson, Newton
- 1998 Van Chancellor, Houston, TX
- Deborah Norwood Duncan,  
Philadelphia
- Howard Sessums, Clinton
- 1999 Daisy Kate Williams Chaney, Union
- Sam Rutigliano, Forest, VA
- Charles E. Ward, Pace, FL
- 2000 Billy Ray Dill, Escatawpa
- Sue Gunter, Baton Rouge, LA
- Jimmy Rea, Madison

## Lifetime Achievement Awards

- 1991 Dr. Austin Boggan, Decatur
- 1994 Homer Hunter, Decatur
- Ovid Vickers, Decatur
- 1996 W.H. Johnson, Jr., Decatur
- J.W. Thrash, Decatur
- 2000 James E. Land, Union

## Instructors of the Year

- 1982 Ovid Vickers
- 1983 Dr. Shelby Harris
- 1984 Jessie M. Everett
- 1985 Bruce Guraedy
- Al Bailey
- 1986 Ann Burkes
- O.L. Newell
- 1987 Tommy Thrash
- Chester Clark
- 1988 Dr. Richard Ethridge
- John Adcock
- 1989 Joe Clark
- Larry Blackburn
- 1990 Lois McMullan
- Wallace Keen
- 1991 Tom Carson
- Ricky Harrison
- 1992 Ron Davis
- Lester Miles
- 1993 Lucille Wood
- Sara Griffin
- 1994 Alice Pouncey
- Elizabeth Breland
- 1995 Al Deaton
- Sarah A. Griffin
- 1996 Charles Hinson
- Jimmy Dempsey
- 1997 Dr. Richard Fisher
- Brenda Johnson
- 1998 Leesa Wilkinson
- Conrad Germany
- 1999 L.B. Bullock
- R.W. Clark
- 2000 Dr. Linda Lane
- Sandra Thomas



# ***Alumni Luncheon***

Mabry Memorial Cafeteria • October 7, 2000 • Noon

Presiding ..... James Vance, '57  
President, ECCC Alumni Association

Invocation ..... Pruitt Calvert  
Class of 1950

Welcome and Introductions ..... Dr. Phil A. Sutphin  
President

East Central Community College Foundation, Inc. Report ..... David Howell, '69  
Chairman, Board of Directors

Nominating Committee Report and Election of Alumni Officers ..... Ann Burkes, '63  
Head Librarian and Co-Chair, Homecoming Steering Committee

Recognition of Special Alumni Groups ..... Larry Hogue, '61  
Vice President for Foundation and Alumni Relations and Co-Chair, Homecoming Steering Committee

Classes Ending in "0" • Classes of '57, '58, and '59  
'74-'75, '75-'76, and '76-'77 Football Teams and Cheerleaders  
Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Association • ADN Alumni Association  
Warrior Marching Band Alumni

Special Recognitions ..... Joe Killens '83  
Interim Vice President for Student Services

Presentation of the Instructors of the Year Awards ..... Dr. Lavinia Sparkman  
Vice President for Instruction

Presentation of the Athletic Hall of Fame Awards ..... Sammy Pace, '69  
Athletic Director and Women's Basketball Coach

Presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award ..... Dr. Phil A. Sutphin

Presentation of the Alumna of the Year Award ..... Dr. Phil A. Sutphin

Presentation of the Alumnus of the Year Award ..... Dr. Phil A. Sutphin

Adjourn/Photos



## ***"Alumnus of the Year"***

### ***S. LeBrun Hutchison***



LeBrun Hutchison of Littleton, Colorado, is a Philadelphia native and retired civil engineer with the National Park Service. He has spent the past 20 years devoting much of his time to various civic, community and religious organizations in the Littleton community.

Among honors received for his community involvement include his selection as Grand Marshal of the 1996 Western Welcome Week Grand Parade. The annual event is attended by over 80,000 people and culminates 10 days of homecoming celebrations.

Hutchison has also made numerous financial gifts and other contributions to East Central Community College.

He and his parents, N. J. and Agnes Hutchison, gave a deacon's bench and a portrait of former EC

President Dr. L. O. Todd for the Wesley Foundation Room on campus.

They also donated a bench for the garden in memory of Grace Gardner, a retired dean of women.

In 1984, Hutchison established an annual award for a sophomore member of Alpha Alpha Epsilon, "The Engineers" and in 1999, the gift was converted into an annual scholarship. To date, 16 pre-engineering sophomores have been recipients of this recognition.

Hutchison, a member of the class of 1949, was a founding member of Alpha Alpha Epsilon and served the organization as vice president his freshman year and was president during his sophomore year.

In addition to his academic success at East Central, Hutchison was a two-year letterman in football and track. He won the 100-yard and 220-yard dashes in the state track meet his freshman year and placed second in both events during his sophomore season.

He also competed in relay races and in the broad jump. (It should be noted that Hutchison still holds the EC record in the 100-yard dash. He ran the event – held on a dirt track – in 9.8 seconds!)

He was also a member of the 1948 Warrior football team – coached by Hillary Horne and Arno Vincent – which won the J. C. Bowl in Panama City, Florida, and finished with a 7-2-2 record.

He continued his education at Mississippi State University where he received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

At MSU, he was a President's Scholar and a member of the Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The Hutchisons have two daughters. Sylvia is married to Dr. Dennis Ballinger and they reside in Menio Park, California, with their two children, Alexandra and Jackson. Stella is married to Dale Macumber and they reside in Littleton, Colorado, with their children, Dan, Sarah and David.



## ***"Alumna of the Year"***

# ***Jeanette Beevers Thrash***

Jeanette Thrash, a member of the class of 1958, has served as principal of Newton County Elementary School in Decatur since 1991. She previously served as principal of Boler Elementary School, also in Decatur.

She has also served Newton County schools as a classroom teacher, remedial reading teacher, curriculum supervisor and administrative assistant. In addition, she has held teaching positions at Hickory and Beulah Hubbard elementary schools and with the Noxubee County School System.

In addition to her duties as an educator, she is involved with various civic and religious organizations.

She is a 34-year member of the Decatur Women's Progressive Club and is presently serving as the organization's president.

She is also a member of the Mississippi Federated Women's Clubs, Inc.; the Decatur Chamber of Commerce and the ECCC Alumni Association.

She is a past member of the Mississippi Jaycettes and the Decatur Jaycettes.

Thrash has served as a leader for the Girl Scouts of America and has served on the Board of Directors of the Decatur Public Library.

She is a member of the Decatur United Methodist Church, where she serves on the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee. She is also a former Sunday School teacher and previously served as director and teacher of Vacation Bible School.

Among honors Thrash has received include her selection to Outstanding Young Woman of America in 1968, 1969 and 1970. She was chosen Outstanding Young Educator in 1974 and received the Zeta State Scholarship in 1975 and 1986.

She was selected to Governor William Winter's "Conference on Education" in 1982 and was appointed by the Governor to serve as a member of the Performance-Based School Assessment Task Force from 1983 to 1984.



In 1986, she received the Xi Chapter's Woman of Distinction Award for Delta Kappa Gamma and, more recently, she was presented the 1999 Red Rose Award from Xi Chapter.

Thrash is a graduate of Union High School, East Central Community College and Mississippi State University, where she received bachelor's and master's degrees and the AA Certificate in Administration.

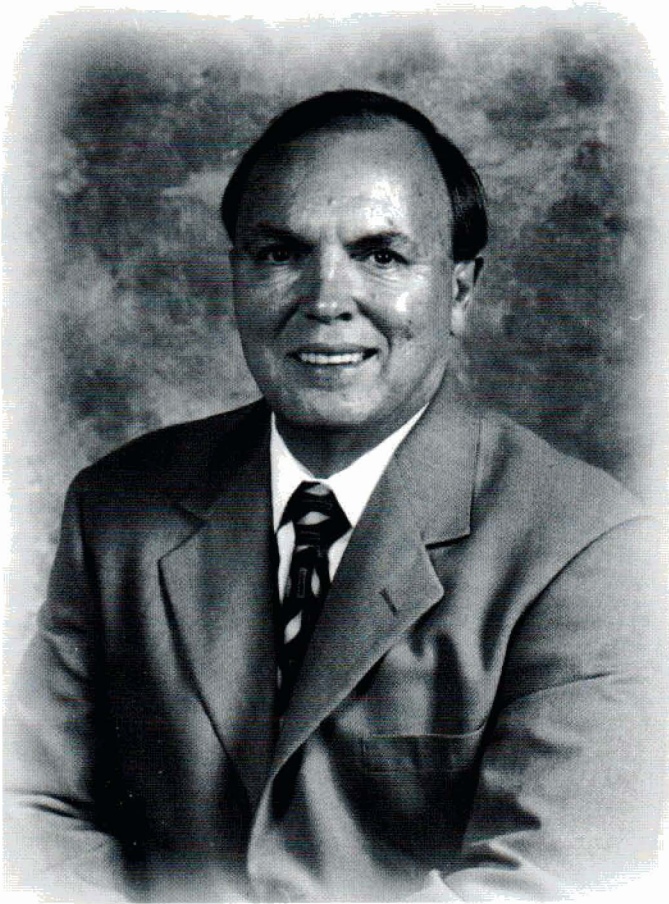
She is married to Tommy Thrash, social science instructor and division chairman at ECCC.

They have two daughters. Mev, a physical therapist, is married to Robert Knight and they reside in Meridian with their children, Kelsi and Logan. Melissa, a staff attorney for the Mississippi Supreme Court, is married to Robert "Spanky" Carleton and they reside in Newton.



## ***"Athletic Hall of Fame"***

### ***Billy Ray Dill***



Billy Ray Dill was a standout on the 1964 and 1965 Warrior football teams, playing halfback on both sides of the ball. In addition to lettering both years, he received various honors following each season. He was named honorable mention All-State his freshman year and was an honorable mention All-American and first-team All-State selection following his sophomore campaign.

Dill helped lead the 1965 Warriors to a 7-3 mark, which represented the second-best record in the state that year. Members of the coaching staff were first-year head mentor Dan Chatwood and assistant Hansel King.

In addition to playing football, Dill participated in various campus activities and was selected a freshman favorite.

Dill continued his athletic career at Mississippi College, transferring in January, 1966. At MC, he broke the school rushing record his junior year and

was the leading scorer and pass receiver his senior year. He also excelled in track.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from Mississippi College in 1968, Dill began a successful career as a coach and teacher.

His first stint was at Comer Junior High School in Pascagoula in 1969, and the following year he returned to his alma mater, Forest High School, from 1970 to 1971. (Dill was a standout in football and track at FHS, where he served as football captain his senior year and was selected most valuable player. He was also chosen on the All Little Dixie Conference team). As a member of the Bearcat staff under head coach Gary Risher, also an ECCC alumnus, Dill helped lead Forest to a perfect 11-0 record and the Overall Little Dixie Conference title.

Dill was named head football coach at Bassfield High School in 1972, where he served two years. He returned to Pascagoula in 1974, serving as assistant football coach and teacher until 1980. The 1976 PHS squad went undefeated and captured the overall state championship.

Dill left the field of education in 1981 to pursue a career in operations at the Chevron Oil Refinery in Pascagoula, where he is presently employed.

He is married to the former Susan Foster and has three daughters, a step-daughter, a stepson, a grandson and a step grandson. His oldest daughter, Manina, is married to Jeff Stone and they reside in Mobile, Ala., with their infant son, Nate. Dill's middle daughter, Dianna Dill, resides in Collins and attends Jones County Junior College. His youngest daughter, Cherie Dill, also lives in Collins and attends JCJC. Dill's stepson, Donnie Harrod, resides in Birmingham, Ala., with his wife Trish and their son, Chase. Dill's stepdaughter, Kelly, is married to Todd Allen and they reside in Laurel.

Dill is the son of Wilma Dill and the late Dr. Ray C. Dill of Forest. His sister, Joanna Bagley, resides in Forest with her husband, Steve.



## ***"Athletic Hall of Fame"***

### ***Sue Gunter***

Sue Gunter is one of only three coaches in the history of women's basketball to win 600 career games. In 18 years as head coach at Louisiana State University, Gunter has led the Lady Tigers to 10 NCAA Tournament appearances, two NWIT (National Women's Invitational Tournament) events (including one championship) and one Women's NIT (National Invitational Tournament).

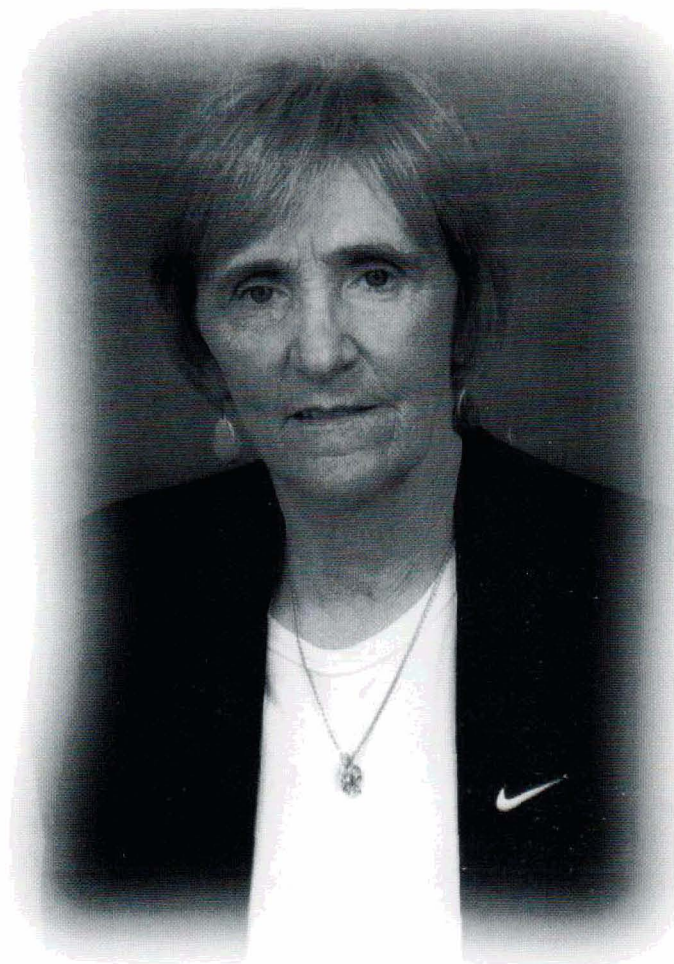
In recognition of her successful career, which now spans over 36 years, Gunter was inducted into the National Women's Basketball Hall of Fame during ceremonies held in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1999.

She was selected Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year following the 1996-97 season, during which the Lady Tigers posted a 25-5 mark and landed a berth in the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16. LSU was ranked ninth in the country in the final NCAA poll that season.

Coach Gunter begins the 2000-2001 campaign at LSU as the fourth winningest active coach in the nation with an overall record of 613 wins and 272 defeats, which includes stints at Middle Tennessee State, Stephen F. Austin and LSU. Her record in guiding the Lady Tigers stands at 347-185, which makes her the winningest coach in school history. (Note: The NCAA does not recognize her two years at Middle Tennessee State or the first four seasons at Stephen F. Austin because accurate records were not available; otherwise, another 100 victories would be added to her total, placing her second behind Tennessee's Pat Summitt on the Division I career victories list.)

In addition to her success in leading college squads, Gunter was head coach for the 1980 United States Olympic Team. The Americans won the Olympic Qualifying Tournament prior to the Olympic competition; however, the team was denied a chance at a gold medal due to the United States' boycott of the Olympic Games, which were held in Moscow that year.

Gunter earlier served as an assistant coach on the 1976 U.S. team, which captured the silver medal in Montreal. She also served as head coach for the U. S. National Team on three occasions – 1976, 1978 and 1980.



Prior to beginning a successful coaching career, Gunter was a standout athlete at Nashville Business College, where she played AAU basketball from 1958-62, earning All-American honors as her team captured two national titles. She represented the USA in international competition against the Soviet Union from 1960-62.

She attended East Central during the 1957-58 school year and played under then head coach Lucille Wood. She also participated in various campus activities and was secretary of the Student Body Association.

Prior to attending ECJC, Gunter was a standout athlete at Walnut Grove High School, where she helped lead the girls' basketball program to a 44-4 record! Her hometown later paid tribute to her successful career by holding "Sue Gunter Day."



## *“Athletic Hall of Fame”*

### *Jimmy Rea*



Jimmy Rea, a Philadelphia native, was a standout running back and defensive back on the 1956 and 1957 Warrior football teams. He also excelled in track, specializing in the 100-yard and 220-yard dashes.

Prior to his arrival on the Decatur campus, Rea had a stellar career at Philadelphia High School, where he earned five letters in two sports – three in football as a star running back and two in track, where he first found success as a sprinter. He also served as basketball manager for three years.

His success at PHS caught the attention of then East Central football and track coach Clayton Blount who signed Rea to an athletic scholarship.

One of the memorable victories for Rea and his teammates during the 1956 season included the Warrior's 20-14 upset of East Mississippi Community College, led at that time by the legendary coach "Bull" Sullivan.

Key wins during Rea's sophomore campaign, during which he served as team co-captain with Tommy McCullough, came against Holmes (12-7) and Jones (12-6). There were also ties recorded with East Mississippi (7-7) and Co-Lin (20-20).

The highlight of Rea's track career obviously occurred at the 1958 State Junior College Track Meet held at Hinds Junior College, where he won first place honors in the 100-yard and 220-yard dashes.

After graduating from East Central in 1958, Rea continued his athletic career at Louisiana College in Pineville, where he was a two-year letterman in football and track. During the '58 campaign, Rea helped lead Louisiana College to the best season in school history – a 9-2 mark that included a 39-12 win over Arkansas Tech in the Rice Bowl held in Stuggart, Arkansas.

Rea graduated from Louisiana College in 1960, earning a bachelor's degree in physical education and social studies. He then began a successful but brief coaching career, with stints in Alexandria, Louisiana; Moss Point and Greenwood.

He returned to Philadelphia in 1961 and began a successful used car business. In 1973, after attending auctioneering school, Rea started an auto auction in Philadelphia. In 1976 he and two partners – Sonny Steel and Charles Mars – purchased the Ford Dealership in Philadelphia. Rea served as president of the company until he sold the business in 1981.

Rea later began a second auction business (Mid-South Auto Auction) and over the years the business has continued to grow and is now located on a 29-acre, multi-million dollar facility in Jackson. In 1996, Mid-South Salvage was added to the business and a new salvage facility was completed in 1999.

Rea and his wife, Sammie, reside in Madison where they are members of First Baptist Church of Madison. They reared two sons – John, who serves as manager of Rea Brothers Auction, and Sam, who was tragically killed in a tractor accident in September 1997. John and his wife, Kim, have three children: Austin, Mary Grace and Peyton. Sam and his wife, Dana, had one child, CJ.



## ***“Academic Instructor of the Year”***

### ***Dr. Linda Lane***

Dr. Linda Lane of Jackson joined the ECCC faculty in 1999 and serves as Spanish and French instructor. She previously taught the same courses at Mississippi College where she began employment in 1994.

She has also served on faculties at the University of Mobile in Alabama, and at Mississippi University for Women where she was Chairman of the Department of Foreign Languages.

During her tenure at the University of Mobile, Dr. Lane inaugurated a summer study program in San Marcos, Nicaragua, and also traveled there on several occasions to help establish a branch campus for the University.

A product of Brandon High School, Dr. Lane was graduated cum laude from Millsaps College in Jackson where she received a bachelor's degree in French with a minor in Spanish. She earned a master's degree in French, with minor emphasis in Spanish, from Louisiana State University, and received a doctorate in modern languages, again with a major in French and a minor in Spanish, from Middlebury College in Vermont.

She has studied French at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and completed research for her doctoral degree in Paris.

In addition to her travels in Canada and France, Dr. Lane has visited Hispanic countries as well. She has traveled and studied in Spain on several occasions, including the summer of 1990 when she was selected to participate in the Quicentennial Summer Program for Spanish teachers.

In addition, she has traveled and studied in Mexico.

Dr. Lane holds membership in several professional organizations including the Modern Language Association, Mississippi Foreign Language Association, American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, and American Association of Teachers of French.

She is a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Jackson and the Alliance Francaise of Jackson.

When commenting about her role as a college



instructor Dr. Lane said, “My greatest satisfaction in teaching is seeing students choose a foreign language for the first time and discover the joy of learning about another culture and language. It is especially gratifying when students decide to continue their study of the foreign language beyond the requirement, just because they want to.”

When asked how she felt about her selection as instructor of the year, Dr. Lane said, “The announcement took me by complete surprise. Since I have taught at EC for only one year, I never imagined that I would receive this honor. I am, of course, very happy to be recognized and very humble. The faculty at EC is a very talented and dedicated group of people. Many of my colleagues are very deserving of this honor.”



## ***ECCC Board Names New Walking Trail In Memory of Representative Livingston***

A new walking trail, soon to be completed at East Central Community College in Decatur, will be named in memory of a state legislator who provided assistance in developing the project.

The new trail, an extension of the current walking trail located on the north side of campus, will be known as The Dick Livingston Recreational/Study Trail following recent action by the ECCC Board of Trustees. ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin said naming the trail in Livingston's honor is a most appropriate gesture.

"Representative Livingston was a long-time friend of East Central and his interest in environmental issues and the College's fitness trail project had a tremendous impact on East Central. We are indebted to him for his assistance and advice in developing the project on the north side of campus. He will be greatly missed," Sutphin said.

Officials of the ECCC Alumni Association had earlier recommended to the Board that the new trail be named for Livingston, who was serving as Association president when cancer claimed his life on March 28, 2000, at the age of 60. Livingston attended East Central from 1958-60 and was named the College's Alumnus of the Year in 1997.

Livingston, who served almost 30 years in the state legislature, was chairman of the House Game and Fish Committee and was an avid promoter of conservation and preservation of natural resources.

Funding for the project came from two grants, involving a total worth of \$150,000 (private donations included), from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife,

Fisheries and Parks and the National Recreational Trails Funding Program of the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation.

The first grant was used to complete the fitness trail – a half-mile trek that is paved, lighted and handicapped accessible. Also included are 20 exercise stations. Additional improvements include the planting of more than 70

trees native to Mississippi and the installation of hand-made birdhouses by a private donor. Many of the trees are labeled with their scientific and common names and are part of the College's campus arboretum. The area includes an outdoor classroom overlooking the trail. The classroom was built with the assistance of students from the Newton County Vocational Center.

A second grant involved approximately \$80,000 to be used to extend the current trail to include a recreational/study trail around the College lake. The new trail – which is named for Livingston – will also be paved, lighted, handicapped accessible

and will include a walkway over the south end of the lake.

In addition, the new trail will include the labeling of trees with their scientific and common names, thus expanding the campus arboretum. Plans call for the area to include a pavilion to be built with the assistance of the athletic department. Livingston was a standout athlete at Morton, East Central and Millsaps College.

A ceremony to officially dedicate The Dick Livingston Recreational/Study Trail will be held in the spring.



***Dick Livingston***

## ***ECCC Reports Record Enrollment!***

A record 2370 students are enrolled in classes offered by East Central Community College, announced Donna Luke, Director of Admissions, Records and Research.

Luke said the 2000 fall enrollment represents an increase of 142 students – or over six percent – as compared to the previous record mark of 2228 students who registered for classes during the 1999 fall term. East Central has experienced an increase in enrollment for 16 straight years.

New ECCC President Dr. Phil A. Sutphin, who officially began his duties on July 1, was obviously pleased with the record enrollment.

"The College continues to provide a level of service that encourages students to come to East Central to pursue their educational goals. We encourage all prospective students to look at what we provide," he said.

Of the 2370 students enrolled at the College, 1758 are full-time students while 612 attend on a part-time basis.

In addition to offering classes on the Decatur campus, East Central provides instruction at various locations throughout the College district, which includes Leake, Scott, Neshoba, Newton and Winston counties.